(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any machinery? Is there any report?

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no such machinery or agency... (*Interruptions*) I am talling you the fact. If you have got any suggestion, I am ready to accept it. Today...(*Interruptions*).....If you listen me then I will be able to tell you something. There is no particular agency for this area. When we get some information from time to time, we undertake a study of the area. We have our regional offices in various parts of the country and we call for information in this regard from these offices.

Sports Talent in Rural Areas

*292. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any scheme for identification of sports talent from rural areas for proper coaching;

(b) if so, the details of the efforts made in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b). The following are the schemes for identification of sports talent and proper coaching, under which the talent is overwhelmingly drawn from the rural areas:

(i) National Sports Talent contest scheme

(ii) Special Area Games Scheme

(iii) Sports Project Development area Scheme.

Rural Schools are also provided assistance upto Rs. 1.00 lakh for development of play ground and purchases of non consumable sports equipment without insisting on any matching contribution.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is quite unfortunate that in our country politics has crept into games to a great extent, because of which we lag behind in the sports of international level despite having promising talents. Its main reason is that the rural sports talents do not get adequate encouragement. Therefore, I would inform the hon. Minister through you, that these three schemes to identify the sports talents are meant only for the children who are going to school in villages and cities; but what about the children who accompany buffaloes to pastures, who work in fields. Such children have very good skill in horse-riding, swimming, archery and kabaddi, Such children do not go to schools, but these children can be good sportsmen and can bring laurels to the country and earn a fame for the nation. May I know whether there is any agency with the Government to search such children and the encourage them? Secondly, such good sportsmen should be given nutritious diet, may I know whether they would be provided with any special monthly financial assistance for that?

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that the sports performance of our country is extremely poor. Therefore..... (*Interruptions*)

It is good to speak the truth, It is a single man's fault but I should say that the sports has been neglected in the country after independence Today...(*Interruptions*) Please listen, you have given me a chance to speak. (*Interruptions*)... There are only few such countries which are ahead in sports and they are playing better as well, such as China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan but in our country those who are only players, get nothing in turn and they are subject to neglection. We are trying from right now in this direction. If we don't try right now, we won't be able to do anything. It will not take much time, but giving priority to sports is the need of the Hour and this should not be bneglected in any way. Therefore... (*Interruptions*)... Please, listen to me, what is going to be done. (*Interruptions*) In response to the question asked by Kumari Uma Bharti I would like to inform about the steps being taken by the Department ot promote sports in rural areas. It is proposed to build 78 Sports Project Development Area Centres and 100 Community Development Project Blocks. Special attention will be paid towards the poor and underfed children deprived of educational facilities, having lot of talent. (*Interruptions*)

It has got nothing to do with politics but only with sports.

MR. SPEAKER: This is connected with sports and no politics is involved.

(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The Government is prepared to spend money on the Sports Project Development Area Centres being set up to train, educated and encourage sports talent. These Centre are being organised by the Sports talent. These Centres are being organised by the Sports Authority of India.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the hon. Minister, through you, for the enthusiasm being displayed by her to give all possible encouragement to sports talent in the country. Sir, through you, within half a second I would like to submit one more thing that whenever there is Question - Answer Session between two lady Members in the House, signs of insanity are clearly demonstrated by a few hon. Members. Same thing was also whiteness on an earlier occasion when question were being asked from Kumari Girija Vyas. Therefore, I would like to request you to give a direction in the House that the hon. Members suffering from such a disease must mend their ways and do not indulge in male chauvinism through touthe day in their mind.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that there is nothing like that. We do not want to cause any obstruction. That's why your question is being replied to by the hon. Lady Minister.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Good question; good reply, Now let us come to the question.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that there are a number of rural sports being played in the country for centuries, but with the influence of the Britishers these sports like Kabaddi, Kho-Kho and number of other tribal sports could not be promoted. I need not mention the names here. I would like to know whether there is a proposal to encourage these sports and to make these popular at the national level?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Besides recognised rural sports, a number of other rural sports will have to be identified in an effort to promote these sports. Attention

cannot be paid towards every sport but games like Kabaddi and Kho-Kho are recognised sports. But in the case of international competitions the Government has to pay attention to only those sports which are played world wide.

With a view to pay attention towards rural sports, championships at State level used to be organised in the districts under NSTCS Scheme annualy. But now round the year completions will be organised in rural areas by the nodal youth clubs and in this way lot of talent could be spotted for in the rural areas.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of Kumari Uma Bharti has been replied to by the hon. Lady Minister, but I want that may question be replied to by Kunwar Sahib. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has informed us about the National Sports Talent Search Scheme and Special Area Sports Scheme which is meant to spot sports talent and give proper training to these sportspersons. I would like to submit that there is a need to pay attention towards traditional and rural sports. For example Archery is the traditional sport of tribals and swimming is the traditional sport of boatmen. Equestrian events can be encouraged among farmers who normally go to fields on horse back and shooting is the traditional sport of a few tribes.

I would like to know whether the Government have got any scheme to set up special training centres for these particular tribes ? If not, then why the persons not having any connection with these sports have become sports administrators. I would like to know the Government the attitude of these sports administrators towards the sportspersons of the rural areas and the role being played by them?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has formulated Special Area Scheme for the backward areas in the Five Year Plan and other schemes are also being formulated to identify and encourage talented persons in villages. In the field of Archery a Scheme is being formulated.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in rural areas training is not at all being given to talented sportspersons. Just now the hon. Minister informed us about the scheme to build stadia in the villages to provide an opportunity for training. I would like to know whether the pending applications from States for stadia will be speedily disposed, so that these stadia could be built immediately?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central and the State Governments equally share the cost of building Stadia. If there is any specific project proposal then the Central Government approves it.

[*English*]

SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN: Sir, every time when the Asian Games or the Olympics take place, we do not do well and we come back and there is mass criticism. So, I would just like to ask two questions. Firstly, is the Government thinking of making sports compulsory in schools? Secondly, will the Government consider going reservation to outstanding sportsmen in the jobs?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I am very grateful to the hon. Member, who himself is a great sportsmen of this country, for focussing attention on the overall development of sports in this country. You might recollect, Sir, that I made a humble request to you in the last Session that it would be in the fitness of things that this honourable Parliament have a special discussion on sports.

MR. SPEAKER: I have made an announcement that the two subjects, namely, women and sports, will be discussed.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Thank you very much, Sir. I can assure the hon. Member that the question of sports cannot be looked at from one angle along. When an event takes place, whether it is in the national or an international sphere, all our attention is diverted to it and the results flowing out of that even becomes the subject matter of either controversy or sometime applause also. I think that it is time that this country adopted a sustained policy and an Action Plan, whereby the talent that lies hidden in this country gets a proper opportunity to build up and display its capacity and win laurels for this country, in which all the suggestions made by the hon. Member will also fall.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the slogan 'Catch them young' in the rural areas to identity the talents in rural children. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how far this scheme has been successful, how many children have been identified and how many children are being trained at present.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, we have recognised many sports. But we have identified a few sports like athletics, archery, badminton, boxing, hockey, table tennis...

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Sir, my question was how many children have been identified under the slogan 'Catch them young'.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, as this is not related to this question, I need a separate notice.

MR. SPEAKER: You can send the reply in writing.

KUMARI MAMATA BABNERJEE: If the hon. Member asks, I will send it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee for giving unambiguous replies bereft of politics. Just now, Shri Chauhan asked about the Asian and Olympic Games... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We are running short of time. Please be briet otherwise you will not get reply.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: I will take only a minute. In the last Asian and Olympics performances of Indian contingents were pitiable. The main reason for it according to sports analysts was large participation in many a discipline by Indian contingent and shortage of funds. I would like to impress upon the hon. Minister the need to indentify selected disciplines so as to improve the standard of sports contingents.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: 15 disciplines have been identified and the Government will pay attention towards them.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Diversion of Forest Land for Non-forest Purposes

*286 SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI KODAKANI GOWDANA SHIVAPPA:

Will the Minister ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of forest land diverted for non-forest purposes during the last one year;